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Celebrity Buzz

**Clooney
puts self
up for
adoption**

pg 14



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Metro Drive

**A lot riding
on Toyota
Venza**

pg 10



EDMONTON • WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2009

metronews.ca



"We're very preoccupied and worried that unemployment is going to rise sharply. Is the EI change sufficient...?" Liberals' Michael Ignatieff



"In today's budget, he prioritized \$60 billion in corporate tax cuts and only \$1.15 billion for the unemployed." NDP's Jack Layton



"They're not targeted enough. (There is) nothing in (the Conservative's budget) to obtain our support." BQ's Gilles Duceppe

Budget bleeds red

Tories project deficits until 2013 to blunt recession

The Conservatives delivered a fixer-upper budget meant to rebuild the economy and get Canadians working, pumping \$40 billion over two years into everything from income tax cuts and help for home renovations to increased jobless benefits and cash for urban reconstruction.

Canadians will find out today if the Conservatives' economic safety net has earned the support of federal Liberals.

Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff offered a mixed review but said he would announce this morning whether to vote down the budget — and defeat Prime Minister Stephen Harper's minority government.

He said the budget's big-ticket spending and new assistance for the jobless was a "positive" response to "the combined pressure of the opposition parties," which threatened to topple the government.

Cuts in hindsight

- Harper's cut to the Goods and Services Tax from seven to six per cent, then to five per cent has been projected to cost the federal coffers about \$12 billion in 2009-10.

But the Liberal leader questioned whether Finance Minister Jim Flaherty has done enough to improve employment insurance (EI) benefits and whether funds for infrastructure will flow quickly.

The Conservatives boast the budget, aimed at reducing the impact of a growing global recession, will create or maintain close to 190,000 jobs. But the Tories are forecasting a \$34-billion deficit in the next fiscal year

and deficits totalling almost \$85 billion over five years. Not until 2013 does the budget forecast a surplus.

Flaherty defended the "temporary" deficit spending, calling it "necessary to stimulate our economy."

NDP Leader Jack Layton quickly criticized the budget. He said it is Ignatieff's responsibility to defeat the budget as it fails to meet the tests the Liberal leader set for his support.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Finance Minister Jim Flaherty pauses as he delivers his budget in the House of Commons in Ottawa yesterday. The Conservatives' budget will run a deficit of \$34 billion in the next fiscal year.

Budget Highlights

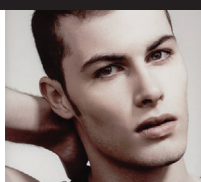
- Cut personal taxes by \$20 billion over six years, including raising the upper limit of the two lowest personal income-tax brackets.
- Cut business taxes by \$2 billion over six years.
- \$7.8 billion for social housing and private home renovation, including a one-year Home Renovation Tax Credit of up to \$1,350 per household.
- \$12 billion (\$7 billion in new cash) for infrastructure spending, with \$1 billion for "green" infrastructure, and \$1 billion for clean-energy research.
- \$2.7 billion in short-term loans to the auto industry.
- \$8.3 billion for skills and training.
- Extend EI benefits by five weeks for two years.

Canada 2009

Federal Budget

- Tradesman praises stimulus as job-saver pg 2
- Reaction across Canada pg 2
- Ignatieff to decide Tories' coalition's fate pg 4
- Green plan panned pg 5
- Kate MacNamara on following Bob the Builder pg 6
- Business groups applaud pg 7

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Man turns himself in after Evansburg break-in
A man wanted for an alleged home invasion in which a homeowner was badly beaten and his son shot in the stomach turned himself into police yesterday. Steven David Kennedy, 44, turned himself in to Evansburg police in relation to the incident, which allegedly took place at a rural home near Lake Isle on Monday. **REUTERS**

Local



Police hit the ice

Head down to the Clare Drake Arena on family day for an all-star family "fun-raiser," where Edmonton Eskimo alumni will take on the Edmonton police Faded Blues. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. For more information, visit www.accd.net. **REUTERS**

Jobs saved, tradesman says

VICTORIA HANDSIDES
victoria.handysides@metronews.ca

For single father Warren Dahlen, yesterday's federal budget announcement means he should be able to keep putting food on the table in front of his two young daughters.

The federal government has promised \$12 billion for infrastructure, which is good news for the 40-year-old electrician, whose employment is only secured by new construction.

"It's going to guarantee some tradesmen out there will keep their jobs. As long as things are being built, we'll be working."

Edward Jones tax accountant Dean Paley said the federal budget included tax measures that affect mainly lower and middle class Canadians.

Based on Dahlen's \$55,000 annual income, his annual tax savings will be approximately \$175, Paley said.

The single dad pays \$200 per month in child care, but might soon lose a provincial subsidy. With-



Edmonton electrician and single dad Warren Dahlen, and his daughters Shianna, 10, left, and Marissa, 9.

out subsidy, Dahlen is still facing almost \$1,000 per month in after-school care for his two daughters.

Paley said subsidies are based on a person's pre-tax income and the federal budget would not affect this subsidy.

Dahlen said he would

have liked to see money for child care, but isn't surprised it wasn't included.

While there was some good news in the budget for Dahlen, he thinks a shift in tax policy is what's needed to jump-start the country.

"I really wanted to see a

cut for people that are making middle-class," he said.

"The middle class is supporting this whole country. People that make the most money have loopholes and pay less than they should be by making charitable contributions."

Reaction across the Country

Halifax — Senior citizen

Marilyn Peers saw some new money for seniors in the federal budget, but the 77-year-old Halifax resident hoped for more.

"It's going to be worse than better in the near future, and (seniors) have a lot of concern for our adult children, as well as how it will affect us," she said last night.

Toronto — Single-income family

A young family with only one full-time income, the Melvilles say they weren't expecting much on a personal level from the federal budget.

The most significant detail in the budget for the Melvilles was the home renovation tax credit, which they said they'll make good use of.

Ottawa — Student

The federal budget contained lots of good news for students, said Ian Lee, MBA director for the Sprott School of Business at Carleton University.

There was an announcement of \$2 billion for the renewal and

refurbishment of universities and colleges across Canada, which will help students entering the workforce as boomers retire, Lee said.

Calgary — Double-income family (\$150K), 2 kids

A Calgary small business owner, proud husband and father of two, Mike April said as far as his family goes, there wasn't a lot that he could see directly benefiting them in the budget — aside from the tax cuts.

According to Dean Paley, tax professional for Edward Jones Canada, the Aprils will see that tax relief — to the tune of about \$350 per year.

Vancouver — Same-sex couple

Karen Chan, 29, and Amy Romanas, 35, were married last January and are filing their tax returns together for the first time.

They will save \$1,100 in taxes this year thanks to almost \$20 billion over five years in tax relief announced in yesterday's budget. Combined, the couple earns about \$100,000 annually.

Infrastructure funding welcome: Mandel, Evans

ANNOUNCEMENT Edmonton's mayor said yesterday that while he's pleased with the federal budget, overall, "the devil is in the details."

Among Stephen Mandel's top concerns for budget allocation are arts and culture, transportation and hockey arenas. He said that a promise for \$12 million in infrastructure bodes well for the city's

long list of "to-do's" which include roads, bridges and recreation centres, and will help offset costs incurred by taxpayers.

He added it's likely the city will get the greatest say in how the federal money is spent locally, but that he and council are

keeping a "level exuberance" before making any big plans.

Alberta's finance minister believes the federal budget has made some strides in helping the province weather through an economic drought, but admitted she's still looking through the details for fair-

ness.

"Overall, (it's) good news," said Finance Minister Iris Evans in a media scrum yesterday.

"When you have infrastructure funding and transportation funding, that puts people to work, and here in Alberta we've got some roads that can use that ... Definitely, that's a help."

METRO EDMONTON



Iris Evans

News in brief

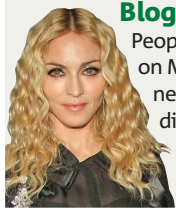
WEAPONS Testing has begun on 100 Tasers that may be delivering jolts at too high a voltage. Solicitor General Fred Lindsay said yesterday the move is a response to test results that confirmed some Tasers built before January 2006 were emitting zaps higher than 50,000V. Currently, 400 x-26 Tasers are in use by police in Alberta. Rather than pull all units, and risk officers resorting to "lethal force," the remaining devices will be tested over time. **METRO EDMONTON**

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WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Budget Full coverage of the federal budget, including opposition reaction, highlights and hits and misses at metronews.ca/canada

Blogs Famous People Are Weird on Madonna's newest disguise at metronews.ca





new

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Atheist ad campaign targets Calgary

The Freethought Association of Canada is targeting Calgary for its next round of advertising intended to promote atheism, CBC News Online reports. The ads would carry a simple message: There's probably no God; now stop worrying and enjoy your life. The group is currently waiting for approval to put its ads on buses in Toronto. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

3

Canada/World



Four people were arrested yesterday as 200 members of CUPE and their supporters rallied in downtown Toronto. The rally was to protest back-to-work legislation proposed by the Ontario government as it attempts to intervene in a strike at York University.

Strike takes ugly turn

Protesters clash with police outside Ontario legislature

As debate on back-to-work legislation continued for the third day at the Ontario legislature yesterday, four protesters were arrested while they made their way from the ministry of labour offices to the legislature.

The two men and two women were arrested after an officer contacted his dispatcher to say "he needed assistance," said Toronto police Const. Tony Vella, a media spokesperson. Bystanders who witnessed the protest also contacted police to say an officer needed help, Vella added.

"We are in a deadlock ... legislation is the only certain way to make it (end) now."

Alex Bilyk, York University

Charges include assaulting police officers and obstructing police, according to Vella. "Four officers sustained minor injuries," he said.

CUPE President Sid Ryan said that if back-to-work legislation passes today or tomorrow, CUPE may be forced to launch a court action on the basis that it violates the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

"If we pursue it, the strike will be prolonged," Ryan told a news conference at Queen's Park yesterday. "We don't want to go down that road."

York officials say the two sides are at a true impasse, said Alex Bilyk, a university spokesperson. "We are in a deadlock," he said. "This legislation is the only certain way to make it (end) now."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

ALBERTA The rapid-fire development of Alberta's oilsands region has garnered a new critic — Luc Bouchard, bishop of the diocese of St. Paul, which covers nearly 156,000 square kilometres of Alberta. The bishop said in a letter this week that "the integrity of creation in the Athabasca oilsands is clearly being sacrificed for economic gain." **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Icebreaker gets stuck freeing ship

QUEBEC It wasn't something they had expected, getting stuck in the thick ice of the St. Lawrence River. Neither did the guests aboard the Vacancier cruise ship expect the Canadian Coast Guard icebreaker that came to get them out would suffer the same fate.

But the icebreaker Terry Fox, considered one of Cana-

da's two "heavy" icebreakers, did get caught in the ice leading some to wonder whether the coast guard has adequate icebreaking capabilities.

A coast guard communications officer denied the Terry Fox got stuck. "It just had difficulty to move in the ice," she said. "There is a difference." **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

World exhaling sigh of relief, Clinton says

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton suggested yesterday the world was breathing a sigh of relief that President Barack Obama had replaced George W. Bush and was working to reverse his policies.

In her first news conference as top U.S. diplomat, Clinton said excitement over the change in power was "reinforced time and time again" during recent welcome calls with foreign counterparts.

"There is a great exhalation of breath going on in the world as people express their appreciation for the new direction that's being set and the team that is put together by the president," Clinton said.

Many Arab and European allies opposed the Bush administration's invasion of Iraq and its human rights record, including treatment of terror suspects. Generally, world leaders have praised Obama's election but analysts say his honeymoon could

be short-lived as he tries to grapple with the global economic crunch, wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Arab-Israeli conflict and other challenges. **REUTERS**

Position on Israel

- Clinton said yesterday that she believes Israel had a right to defend itself and that Palestinian rocket attacks from Gaza on the Jewish state could not go unanswered.

Israeli aircraft strike Gaza border tunnels: Officials

STRIKES Israeli aircraft struck at tunnels used for smuggling goods and weapons on the border between the Gaza Strip and Egypt yesterday, Hamas officials said.

Rafah residents began to flee homes in panic as the aircraft struck three times before dawn, Hamas officials said. There was no initial word of any casualties.

The strike came as an apparent response to an earlier attack by Gaza militants on an Israeli military vehicle hit by a roadside bomb, killing one soldier

Unity urged

- Palestinian politicians and intellectuals appealed to the rival Hamas and Fatah factions yesterday to heal rifts that have jeopardized the quest for statehood.

and injuring three.

An air strike later killed one Palestinian, but Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said that that was only an initial response, and that Israel's full response was still to come. **REUTERS**

25 bodies found in Madagascar department store

ANTANANARIVO Firefighters found 25 charred bodies in a looted department store in Madagascar's capital yesterday, a day after anti-government violence rocked the island.

Mayor and opposition leader Andry Rajoelina called for peaceful demonstrations against President Marc Ravalomanana to resume today.

A teenager and a policeman were killed Monday after tens of thousands took to the streets and the protests became violent. **REUTERS**

News in brief

BULGARIA An armed man surrendered to police after hijacking a bus and holding 37 people aboard hostage for two hours in Bulgaria yesterday. The 33-year-old man, who offi-

cials said had mental health problems, had forced the bus driver to stop at a gas station. **OCUTPLETS** A California woman shocked doctors by giving birth on Monday to oc-

tuplets, believed to be only the second set of eight babies born successfully in the U.S. The six boys and two girls were doing well and were in stable condition, doctors said. **REUTERS**



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Federal

Budget 2009

Big spenders

Pierre Trudeau and Brian Mulroney both spent Canada deeper and deeper into debt during the 1970s, 1980s and early 1990s. Trudeau failed to balance the books for 15 years as prime minister. Mulroney never managed to produce a surplus.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Tories await their fate

NDP, Bloc immediately condemn budget; Liberal decision today

The fate of the Conservative government lies with Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff, who says he is concerned the Harper government has underestimated the economic crisis.

Ignatieff, who met with his Liberal caucus last night, was to announce today whether his party would support the government's economic plan, or possibly join with the NDP and the Bloc Québécois to defeat the Conservatives in the Commons.

There was talk among some Liberals last night about possibly proposing an amendment to the budget to address some of the party's concerns.

New Democrat Leader Jack Layton and Bloc Québécois Leader Gilles Duceppe swiftly condemned the budget as a failed "ideological" document that does not address the needs of the jobless and the most vulnerable, nor move Canada toward a greener economy.

Their parties intend to vote to defeat the government on the budget, and Layton publicly pressured Ignatieff to do the same.

Layton said the budget fails on the very tests — helping the most vulnerable, protecting the jobs of today and creating jobs for tomorrow — that Ignatieff had set out.

"He has a choice to make," Layton told reporters. "It's either to prop up the Harper government and allow it to continue in a fashion that is clearly wrong-headed, or to pursue the agenda laid out by the



Bloc Québécois Leader Gilles Duceppe, left, talks with New Democratic Party Leader Jack Layton yesterday in the foyer of the House of Commons on Parliament Hill after listening to the budget speech.

"He has a choice to make. It's either to prop up the Harper government and allow it to continue in a fashion that is clearly wrong-headed, or to pursue the agenda laid out by the coalition, which would create jobs for the future and would transform our economy and would really protect the people who are suffering the most from the economic crisis."

NDP Leader Jack Layton on Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff

coalition, which would create jobs for the future and would transform our economy and would really protect

the people who are suffering the most from the economic crisis."

Layton was referring to

the agreement signed by the Liberals and NDP in December to form a coalition, supported by the Bloc, to re-

place the Conservative government.

Ignatieff, however, said yesterday the Conservative budget contained "some positive elements" that he credited to the political pressure brought to bear by the united opposition parties before Christmas.

He said there are also "negative aspects."

**TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE
MORE ON IGNATIEFF'S
DECISION, PAGE 5**

EI benefits extended five weeks

Ottawa's plan to extend employment insurance by five weeks is better than nothing, say some workers struggling with job loss and an uncertain future.

But for those whose EI has already run out, yesterday's federal budget offered little comfort.

Economists, labour groups and business leaders had also called on Ottawa to end regional inequities in the system

that make it easier for the unemployed in some parts of the country to qualify than in others.

They note that reforms during the 1990s to limit access and benefits to employment insurance have resulted in a program that covers barely half of unemployed workers in Canada today. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Losses

• With recent job losses topping 100,000 and the threat of another 250,000 Canadians being thrown out of work in the coming year, the lack of major EI reforms is the budget's biggest weakness, said economist Armine Yalnizyan of the left-leaning Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

More to be taken off tax rolls

RELIEF In a something-for-everyone budget, the Conservative government has proposed widespread tax relief for small businesses, homeowners, seniors, and low- and middle-income Canadians.

The budget calls for tax measures that will leave more money in more people's pockets, including the sprawling middle class, whose support the Conservatives covet.

The moves will take an additional 265,000 Canadians off the tax rolls altogether, largely through changes to the basic personal income tax exemption and to the seniors' age credit.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Many wild cards in play for future of the economy

The federal budget is a "prudent" prescription to help heal Canada's ailing economy, but the modest stimulus spending and tax cuts alone may not be enough to pull Canada out of its deepening recession, economists said yesterday.

Dubbing the budget "Canada's economic action plan," Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said the measures were aimed at resuscitating consumer spending and

Savings to trickle down

• Economists said the permanent nature of tax breaks would help those savings trickle down

into the real economy, contrasting them with the temporary tax rebates doled out to Ameri-

cans last year. Lower-income Canadians, they say, have a greater propensity to consume.

protecting increasingly vulnerable jobs amid a worsening global recession.

Flaherty said measures to shore up the sputtering economy must begin within the next 120 days to be

effective. Overall, the government hopes its action plan will create or preserve up to 190,000 jobs for Canadians by the end of 2010.

Private sector econo-

mists, however, stressed the outlook for the global economy remains clouded. There are many wild cards, including the future direction of commodity prices and the timing of any even-

tual economic recovery in the United States — not to mention the future health of Canada's own housing and stock markets.

Since the global economic meltdown was originally sparked by events outside this country's borders, the government's "made-in-Canada" solution is unlikely to be a cure-all for the domestic economic funk.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

No substance, says Greenpeace spokesperson

"There's a total lack of vision," said Stephen Gilbeault from Greenpeace. "What they're trying to do is talk green and look green, but there's no substance to it." **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

canada **5****Federal Budget 2009**

It's not easy being green

Critics pan largest environmental stimulus in Canadian history

It was the largest green stimulus in Canadian history, according to the federal Environment minister, but elements of the budget plan that use the environment to revamp the economy fell short of many expectations.

Yesterday's budget contained more than \$3 billion to develop clean technologies, build environmentally-sustainable infrastructure and improve energy efficiency in homes.

"The provisions in the budget relating to the environment are very significant," Environment Minister Jim Prentice told Torstar News Service. "When you add all this up, it's certainly the largest green stimulus that we've ever seen."

But critics say the federal government's plans fall far short of national public transit and other infrastructure needs while spending too much taxpayers' money in Alberta's oil sands and not enough on renewable energy.

There were at least two mentions of carbon capture



Finance Minister Jim Flaherty, left, shakes hands with Prime Minister Stephen Harper yesterday after delivering the federal budget in the House of Commons.

and storage projects that store greenhouse gas emissions underground in a section of the budget that outlines the five-year, \$1-billion clean energy fund, noted

Stephen Gilbeault of Greenpeace.

The government also earmarked \$292 million to help develop the CANDU nuclear reactor and operate

the Chalk River facility.

The new clean energy fund is "an excellent start," but it is important to rapidly increase funding for renewable energy projects, both to

keep up with the pace that is being set in Washington by U.S. President Barack Obama and to help emerging Canadian companies stay competitive, said Vicky Sharpe, president and chief executive of Sustainable Development Technology Canada.

Obama has vowed to double energy production from renewable sources in three years as part of his stimulus package.

"We're either going to be technology takers or makers, and so if we're going to see an upswing in support for clean technology development in the U.S. then I think we need to be matching that," Sharpe said.

The government wants 90 per cent of energy from clean sources by 2020, a goal that is dependent on shutting down Ontario's coal-fired electricity plants and switching to hydro, nuclear and natural gas as power sources, Prentice said. Wind and solar power can also play a smaller role, he added.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Then & now

Jim Flaherty on the Economy

Oct. 7, 2008:

"We had a surplus in the first quarter of this year ... which is, in fact, ahead of track on our budget assumptions. So I'm quite comfortable that we're on track, in fact, a little bit better than on track, for this fiscal year."

Oct. 24, 2008

"I can assure you that we remain on track for a balanced budget this fiscal year with a modest surplus by the end of the fiscal year."

Oct. 27, 2008:

"Canada will be the envy of other industrialized nations."

Nov. 13, 2008

"We won't take steps that will hurt the real economy just for the sake of having a small surplus."

Dec. 11, 2008

"It's quite clear on the basis of the forecasts and the continuing declines in the forecast that there will be a deficit."

Dec. 12, 2008

"We are living in extraordinary times ... Panicking and making the wrong choices would be devastating for the Canadian economy."

Jan. 21, 2009

"We will not create a permanent, long-term deficit for Canada ... In our economic plan, we will show how we will exit from deficit as the economy exits from recession."

Jan. 27, 2009

"As the economy recovers, we fully expect to emerge from deficit and return to surplus within five years ... While our projections are based on the best information available, we cannot guarantee them absolutely."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Tories boost spending for less fortunate

PRESSURE The Conservative government was under more political pressure than usual to boost social spending as the would-be coalition was on the lookout for whether it would help those that the economic crisis has left most vulnerable.

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty set the tone by making it clear the budget yesterday was not one for a time of prosperity, but one that would do what it could to keep the economy moving while protecting its citizens from the worst effects of the slowdown.

"We will need to spend more to protect our economy and help Canadians hit hardest by the global recession," Flaherty said in his speech in the House of Commons yesterday.

Nicholas Gazzard, executive director of the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada, said he believes the political crisis had something to do with the social spending included in the budget yesterday.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

It's your move, Iggy

Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff laid out three tests to determine whether his party will support the budget. Here are the tests and some budget offerings that might satisfy his demands:

Protect the vulnerable

- Extension of employment insurance benefits by five weeks for the next two years.
- Extension of protections to safeguard severance and termination pay for workers hit by company bankruptcies.
- Greater tax relief from the working income tax benefit to encourage low-income Canadians to find and keep jobs.
- Up to \$150 in tax savings for low- and middle-income seniors through an increase in age credit amount.
- \$1 billion for renovating social housing.

Protect the jobs of today

- \$12 billion over two years for new infrastructure spending.
- \$7.8 billion in tax relief and funding to stimulate the housing sector and improve housing.
- \$170 million toward a "more sus-

tainable and competitive" forestry sector.

Create jobs for tomorrow

- \$55 million over two years to help young Canadians find summer jobs, giving them valuable experience in the work force.
- \$2 billion to repair, retrofit and expand facilities at post-secondary institutions.
- \$750 million for leading-edge research infrastructure through the Canada Foundation for Innovation.
- \$110 million to the Canadian Space Agency for more advanced robotics and space technologies.

Did the budget pass Liberal muster? We find out today at 9 a.m. when Ignatieff announces whether his party will support it. Last night, the Liberal leader questioned whether the Conservatives had done enough for the unemployed and whether the infrastructure cash would be spent quickly enough.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

RENOVATIONS The Home Renovation Tax Credit (HRTC) is designed to get Canadians spending now to help create jobs in industries typically

hurt by an economic downturn. Effective today through Jan. 31, 2010, homeowners can claim a tax credit for 15 per cent of renovation

expenses between \$1,000 and \$10,000. The maximum tax credit (on \$9,000 in renovations) is worth \$1,350.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Steps added to prop up lending

CREDIT The federal government is bolstering efforts to keep credit flowing in Canada — its starkest acknowledgement to date that consumers and businesses are being increasingly squeezed by the global credit crunch.

The measures, announced in yesterday's federal budget strengthen Ottawa's previous actions to prop up lending by improving access to financing for both households and businesses. Officials said the Extraordinary Financing Framework would provide up to \$200 billion to fill gaps in credit markets.

The government is not only fortifying existing programs, it is taking a fresh stab at stemming the crisis through a slew of new actions. Some observers said that the bold approach signals that Canada's credit predicament is now worse than originally imagined.

The \$200-billion price tag is a combination of past programs and new endeavors.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Comment & Views

Comment

Building in Bob's name

Can we fix it? How about, can we afford it?

Usual Business

Kate MacNamara

kmacnamara@explornet.com

In spite of the \$40-billion stimulus package he brought down yesterday, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty is not the man of the hour.

Neither is Opposition Leader Michael Ignatieff, on whose shoulders the fate of this borrowed stimulus now rests. Nope.

It isn't even U.S. President Barack Obama as he leans on Washington lawmakers to pass his trillion-dollar spending plan.

The man who defines our time is Bob the Builder, the children's cartoon character.

Governments across the Western world, and now including our own, have stolen the little fella's show: Building houses, roads, bridges, schools, you get the idea.

The Conservatives say

they're putting shovels and hammers to work across the country, in order to make work, and lift a flagging economy.

All told, new federal infrastructure spending will top \$11 billion.

Mr. Flaherty even filched Bob's tradesman look when he donned steel-toed boots to fulfil the tradition of launching a budget in a pair of new shoes.

In fact, the only thing Mr. Flaherty didn't rip off was Bob's slogan: Can we fix it?

To which his crew of animated bulldozers responds ... Yes we can.

Mr. Obama already filched it for his presidential campaign.

Canada 2009

Federal Budget

But all of this "shovel ready" business isn't the only expensive measure in this budget.

There are several billion dollars for re-training the unemployed.

Billions more in tax credits for everything from home renovations to computers.

There are income tax reductions and help for small businesses.

Aimed at the very special of special interests is the money to increase slaughterhouse square-footage, and the help for lumber mills to expand their sales

in Timbuktu.

There are also more sensible measures to help thaw tightening credit.

For example, there is more than \$60 billion available to buy loans from the balance sheets of banks and other lenders.

That might not have much curb appeal, but it may just mean cheaper and more ready mortgages and car loans for consumers.

Canada is well positioned in the face of a looming recession.

We are returning to deficit spending after 12 years of surpluses.

But Mr. Flaherty said yesterday he doesn't expect the government to return to balanced budgets until 2013.

The interceding years, he estimated, would heap a further \$85 billion on the national debt.

That leaves the question Bob's pint-sized audience can afford to ignore — can we afford it?

Kate MacNamara is a business reporter for CBC radio. She lives in Bragg Creek, Alberta.



Quote of the Day

"My concerns about the budget are have they underestimated the seriousness of the crisis? If they make that judgment wrong, pretty well everything goes south, including their deficit projections."

— Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff

Word on the street: Was this a good budget?

Angela Leggett

Age: 35 Toronto

A: We just moved into a new house, so that tax credit (home renovations) will allow me to spend a bit more money.

Mike Hudema

Age: 32 Edmonton

A: \$750 million is being put toward false solutions like carbon capture and storage.

Melinda Ainsworth-Roy

Age: 26 Ottawa

A: I'm generally suspicious of the Conservatives ... but from what I've seen so far, it looks hopeful.

Daniel Lemieux

Age: 26 Edmonton

A: I think it's great they're putting some money toward green energy, because fossil fuels are running out.

Michael Davis

Age: 35 Calgary

A: It would have been good if they government gave more money for would-be entrepreneurs because I think that's another good option.

Kaley Kennedy

Federation of Students, Nova Scotia

A: We didn't see anything that's going to reduce student debt or reduce tuition fees.

Chris Atkinson

Age: 23 Calgary

A: The tax cuts that have been proposed will be a large benefit to lower and middle income families.

Corinne McKetiak

Age: 21 Calgary

A: I was kind of worried they would have fancy fixes for everything ... it seems smart to give back to people so that they can spend.

Gregor Robertson

Vancouver Mayor

A: We were really hoping for social-housing investment to deal with our homeless crisis here.



It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: edmontonletters@metronews.ca

Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number — street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

Ex-IBM exec heads to Apple after legal battle

A lawsuit involving proprietary- and confidential-information protection that barred former IBM executive Mark Papermaster from joining Apple has been resolved. **REUTERS**

7

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Inflation risk small: Carney

PAUL MCLEOD
Metro Canada

Canada got some good economic news for a change yesterday at a speech in Halifax.

Mark Carney, governor of the Bank of Canada, told the Halifax Chamber of Commerce that the country will likely avoid massive inflation.

Carney said Canada's banking system is strong and the Bank of Canada has room to manoeuvre on controlling inflation.

"The bank began cut-

"Canada faces those challenges (of the financial crisis) from a position of strength."

Mark Carney

ting interest rates sooner — and has cut deeper — than most other central banks. With the usual lag, these moves will have a powerful impact on economic activity and inflation."

Carney's outlook was downright rosy by recent

standards. He expects the economy to begin recovering later this year. While he conceded Canada's GDP will drop a projected 1.2 per cent in 2009, he expects a 3.8 per cent rebound in 2010.

In the meantime, Carney said the central bank would use its powers to keep inflation at two per cent per year.

"While the current financial crisis presents challenges for policy-makers and citizens alike, Canada faces those challenges from a position of strength," said Carney.

Ottawa cuts tax, boosts credit access

Canada 2009
Federal Budget

BUDGET Business groups applauded measures in the proposed federal budget to increase access to credit and cut taxes.

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty pledged to make up to \$200 billion in liquidity and financing available to Canadian businesses through a variety of government measures.

Under the plan, Ottawa would provide businesses with access to additional financing of \$13 billion through financial Crown corporations.

Agencies such as the Export Development Corp. and the Business Development Bank of Canada would have greater lending powers.

A portion of these funds, about \$5 billion, will be provided through the new business credit availability program.

The government also plans to increase the maximum eligible loan amount a small business can access under the Canada small business financing program for loans made after March 31. The current limit will be raised to \$350,000 from \$250,000 and to \$500,000 for loans made for acquiring property.

The government said these changes are expected to result in more than \$300 million in additional lending. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Spain Santander sued



Women walk past a Santander bank branch in central Madrid yesterday. Spain's Santander and its private banking business Optimal are being sued in Florida for losses suffered by customers with investments in products affected by the Madoff scandal, Spanish lawyers said.

Business in brief

PAY A group of about 160 workers recently laid off by Nortel Networks Corp. has asked the company to restore the severance payouts it has suspended as it restructures under court protection.

EARNINGS Helped by strong sales in Quebec and improved performance in Ontario outlets, grocer Metro Inc. reported a quarterly profit of \$81.1 million, or 76 cents a

share, up from \$73.8 million, or 54 cents a share, a year earlier. Analysts had expected earnings of just 64 cents a share.

EARNINGS Hershey Co. posted higher-than-expected quarterly profits of \$82.2 million, up from \$54.3 million a year earlier, as it lifted sales of its name-sake candy and Reese's brand through increased marketing. Sales rose 2.6 per cent to \$1.38 billion. **REUTERS**

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U.S. Steel Corp. posted a more than eight-fold jump in quarterly profits at \$308 million US, but joined some of its rivals in forecasting a weak first quarter as customers draw on their own inventories rather than order new supplies. **REUTERS**

White House goes digital

U.S. President Barack Obama plans to use cutting-edge Internet tools to make the government more responsive, but he'll have to overcome creaky equipment, cumbersome regulations and potential embarrassment.

Just ask Colleen Graffy, the Bush administration official whose Twitter posts about duty-free shopping and rented swimsuits during a State Department trip to Iceland drew widespread ridicule last month.

"This is why diplomats stay off the record and boring," Graffy said in a later Twitter post.

Chatty diplomats will be only one of worries Obama's administration as it tries to drag the massive federal bureaucracy into

the 21st century.

Along with clunky computers and outdated rules, there is the obvious challenge of maintaining presidential dignity in the face of an often unruly online discourse.

Obama's first week in the White House gave a taste of the difficulties to come.

The administration unveiled a sleek new website the moment Obama became president, then failed to update it for days.

Staffers settling in to the White House found their web browsers filtered and their online chat software disabled. Even Obama himself battled to hold on to his beloved BlackBerry email device because of hacking concerns.

What's off limits

- Administrators who delete inappropriate comments on government websites might run afoul of the Constitution's First Amendment, which guarantees freedom of speech.
- Federal contracting rules designed to ensure fairness could delay software upgrades and other improvements.
- Online video could be hampered by a 1973 law that requires the government to provide real-time access, such as closed captioning, for disabled users.
- A 2000 privacy rule that pro-

hibits government websites from collecting and saving users' personal information limits their ability to customize content for individual visitors.

• A 1978 law requires most White House communications to be archived, leading the Obama White House to block instant messaging.

• Government websites must link to outside sites carefully, to prevent the appearance of an endorsement. That would limit the use of outside sites like Facebook, used heavily during the election campaign.

On Monday, White House email went down.

White House staff, accustomed during the campaign to using the latest

communications tools to rally supporters, are likely to find their hands tied by some regulations, experts say. **REUTERS**

Britain offers auto aid

BAILOUT Britain came to the aid of its struggling car industry yesterday, announcing it will guarantee up to 2.3 billion pounds (\$4 billion US) of loans to help it cope with a slump in demand.

The government will guarantee up to 1.3 billion pounds of auto industry loans from the European Investment Bank and guarantee a further one billion pounds of loans to fund investments that are ineligible for support from the European lender, Business Secretary Peter Mandelson told parliament.

Mandelson said Britain had some of the world's most productive car plants and the government was not offering a blank cheque or operating subsidies. **REUTERS**

"Britain needs an economy with less financial engineering and more real engineering."

Peter Mandelson

"For the future, Britain needs an economy with less financial engineering and more real engineering," Mandelson said, in a reference to the complex financial products that have laid low many banks.

Prime Minister Gordon Brown's spokesman said earlier that the British package would use funds set aside in November's pre-budget report for specific sector interventions, providing liquidity and short term credit. **REUTERS**

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ALBERTA MOTOR ASSOCIATION

Japan Honda cuts production



A man looks at a Honda vehicle parked at the Honda Motor Co. company headquarters in Tokyo yesterday. Honda, Japan's second-biggest carmaker, announced further production cuts in North America and Japan as the industry struggles with weak demand in a brutal economic downturn. **REUTERS/MIKIO NAKAO**

GE, lawyer settle discrimination suit

LEGAL General Electric Co. and one of its former attorneys have settled a 2007 lawsuit accusing the U.S. conglomerate of gender discrimination.

The complainant, Lorene Schaefer, who had served as general counsel of GE Transportation, said

the terms of the settlement were confidential.

GE spokesman Gary Sheffer confirmed that the suit had been settled but declined to comment further.

In her suit, filed in May 2007, Schaefer alleged that the Connecticut-based company systematically

underpaid and underpromoted women employees.

Her suit had sought \$500 million in damages for a class of 1,500 to 1,700 GE women executives and lawyers. Schaefer had worked at GE for 13 years prior to filing her suit. **REUTERS**

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In brief

SURVEY Only 22 per cent of Americans trust the financial system, and just 12 per cent trust the stock market, according to the first Financial Trust Index survey. Though most of the 1,000 respondents favoured government intervention in financial markets, 80 per cent said the way the U.S. government had intervened had undermined their confidence in the market. **REUTERS**

MLS commissioner chimes in on Beckham

Major League Soccer isn't prepared to wave goodbye to David Beckham just yet, but would be willing to discuss the future of the former English captain with Italian club AC Milan, commissioner Don Garber said in Ottawa yesterday. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

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Sports

SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Even split on fighting issue

NHL A slight majority of Canadians believe NHL hockey fights should be banished for good, according to a new Canadian Press-Harris-Decima poll.

The survey, conducted during NHL all-star weekend, shows 54 per cent of respondents think fighting should be eliminated. The poll suggests only 40 per cent of Canadians believe fighting should continue to be allowed.

Quebecers — at 62 per cent — oppose fighting far more than residents of any other region in Canada.

Still, 68 per cent of hardcore NHL fans who follow the league closely say the gloves should continue to drop.

The NHL plans to officially examine the role of fighting in the league during the GMs' meeting in March. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Buffalo stampedes Oilers

NHL RESULT

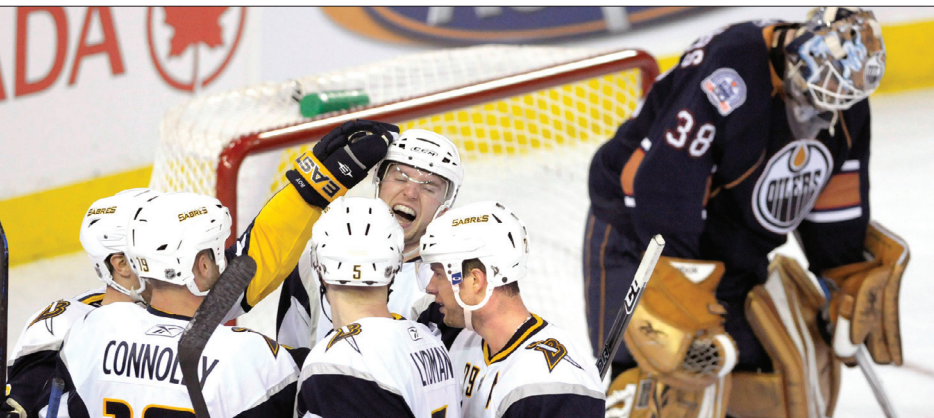
Sabres 10 Oilers 2



THE SKINNY: The Sabres got goals from Drew Stafford and Nathan Paetsch in the first 71 seconds, then made it 3-0 on the eventual winner by Derek Roy before the game was 11 minutes old and it was thanks for coming for the Oilers, who absorbed the most lopsided home loss in franchise history.

THE QUOTE: "It was one of those games where it was kind of all going our way," said Stafford, who had three goals.

THE BIG PLAY: The Oilers cut it to 4-1 on a power-play



Buffalo's Derek Roy, Tim Connolly, Toni Lydman, Thomas Vanek and Jason Pominville celebrate a goal against Edmonton's Jeff Drouin-Deslauriers last night.

goal by Erik Cole at 13:23 of the second period, but Tim Connolly made it 5-1 on a Buffalo power play 56 seconds later to quell any thoughts of a comeback.

LONG WAIT FOR JDD: Before taking over for Dwayne

Roloson, who allowed three goals on eight shots, Jeff Drouin-Deslauriers hadn't played for the Oilers since Nov. 30. Deslauriers allowed seven goals on 28 shots.

SAM SITS: The ankle injury that's nagged Sam Gagner

could keep him out of action for up to two weeks. The ankle didn't respond to rest over the all-star break.

THE NEXT GAME: The Oilers host the Wild Friday.

ROBIN BROWNLEE
/FOR METRO EDMONTON

Sports in brief

NHL Forward Matt Cooke of the Pittsburgh Penguins has been suspended for two games for hitting Carolina Hurricanes forward Scott Walker in the head during a game last week. Cooke was assessed a minor penalty for interference against Walker, who left the ice and did not return to the game. Cooke will miss games against the New York Rangers tonight and the New Jersey Devils Friday night. He'll be eligible to return Saturday for a game against the Maple Leafs in Toronto.

NFL A Philadelphia man shot with a gun owned by Colts receiver Marvin Harrison is headed to trial Wednesday, accused of lying to police. Dwight Dixon is due in Philadelphia municipal court on three charges of making false sworn statements, according to court records. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

For more sports coverage, visit us online at www.metronews.ca/sports

A Super Bowl cakewalk for Steelers?

NFL

Super Bowl XLIII

I am a football addict and have not missed a Super Bowl game. Never. I have, I confess, witnessed every single second of all 42 Super Bowls — whether as a tot in my parents' family room, at friends' parties, in the stands of the stadiums where some of the games were played, working in the press box at several, in a rowdy establishment slouching over a table with beer, or alone with popcorn in the privacy of my den.

And, naturally, I'll watch the 43rd Super Bowl somewhere this Sunday, when the Pittsburgh Steelers and Arizona Cardinals clash helmets.

I'm not especially jazzed up about this one, however, and I know I'm not alone.

Last year in Arizona, when the heavily-favoured New England Patriots were supposed to shred the New York Giants in the 42nd Super Bowl, scalpers exploited overwhelming fan interest and sold tickets for beyond \$10,000 apiece. This week, I'm told, you can buy the finest Super Bowl seat in the house in Tampa Bay for less than \$3,000.

The recession is partly responsible, unquestionably, but there's general apathy,

too, as many football fanatics fear a major mismatch.

Oh, I know that's what folks said last year, before the Pats and the Giants met. New England, though, created a buzz because of the undefeated/historical season it aimed to record. And then the Giants went and upset them. And, sure, the Cards could defy logic as seven-point underdogs and could pull off another miracle Sunday.

They could, but they won't. Consider:

- Team histories: Pittsburgh has a rich, winning tradition and can garner a record sixth Super Bowl victory Sunday. "I knew when I got drafted I'd be in the playoff hunt every year," Pittsburgh

YorkReport

Marty York

marty.york@metronews.ca

defensive end **Brett Keisel** said. "We ooze success." Arizona, meanwhile, has never been in a Super Bowl and has qualified for the playoffs only three times since 1976.

- Defences: No Super Bowl team had permitted more than 360 points in a season until these Cards, who coughed up 426. Pittsburgh gave up 223 points and led



Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger answers questions during Super Bowl media day in Tampa yesterday.

the NFL in fewest yards allowed.

- Regular-season scores: The most points Pittsburgh surrendered in a game this season were 21 — in a 26-21 triumph. Arizona was beaten twice by 21 points, once by 28 and once by 40. No previous Super Bowl team lost a game by 21 or more points in the regular schedule.

You get the picture. This could be one of those not-so-classic Super Bowl routs.

Like: Pittsburgh 28, Arizona 9. Yep, that bad. Regardless, I'll watch every second. Don't plan to snap my streak just yet.

Marty York has been a groundbreaking sports columnist and broadcaster in Canada for decades.



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Volkswagen has become the first automobile manufacturer to win the Dakar Rally with a diesel-powered vehicle, with its Race Touareg TDIs taking first and second place, Canadian Driver reports. The prestigious endurance race took place in Argentina and Chile.

METRO MEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

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2009 Toyota Venza

Type: Five-passenger wagon

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Engine: 2.7-litre, four-cylinder, 16-valve DOHC; 3.5-litre DOHC V6

HP: 182-268

Highlights

Slick looks

Lots of room

Toyota calls the 2009 Venza the most North American car it has ever built.

And in the next breath officials also call it one of the most important cars in the company's history.

Well, when you already have Corolla, Camry and Matrix, then a lot has to be riding on this next vehicle.

At the launch of the 2009 Venza in the hills of Pennsylvania, Toyota opened the presentation by declaring the Venza as a whole new kind of family car that isn't really a family car. It's hard to put a label on Venza. It blurs the line between sta-

tion wagon, crossover and luxury car. About the closest thing to it in concept is the Mercedes-Benz R-Class. With a price said to start at under \$30,000, I guess you could think of it as R-Class light.

This is the first Toyota vehicle specifically aimed at

North Americans, designed in California and built in Kentucky. Canadians were the inspiration for the side rocker panels that are covered by the door panel to keep out slush and snow. Because the rockers are at nearly the level of the floor, there is no step over to get in. So when you get in and out in the winter, and your pant legs brush the sill, they won't get wet or muddy.

With a length of 4.8 m, the wheelbase is a full 2,775 mm larger, which makes for sizeable passenger volume.

The bonus is Venza looks very slick. By adding in 19- and 20-inch alloy wheels on the four-cylinder and V6 models respectively, the Venza comes across as a concept car that made it to the street.

The interior is outstanding in its little details. There is a power point on the transmission wall with a cubbie just below for the front passenger. The 60/40 rear seat has a one-touch fold-down lever. That is in addition to remote back seat releases grafted into each rear cargo wall. The back seats recline for extra comfort.

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as a key factor in determining the rates charged. Another major factor is your individual profile, which is made up of things like your residence or city, your age, the type of car, number of claims and tickets and annual mileage driven. The combination of these and other factors determines what insurance rate or premium is charged.

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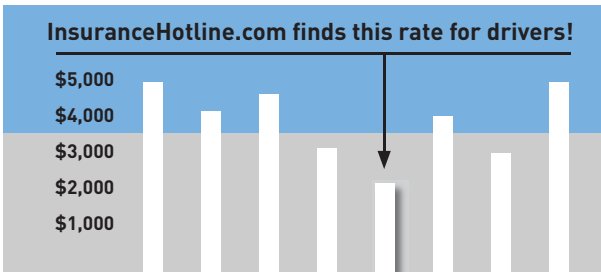
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Scratch golfers and hackers alike will ace their next Florida golf outing with help from golf.visitflorida.com, a new site that pulls together information from public, private, semi-private and resort courses across the state. VISITFLORIDA.COM

Travel

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Family ski deal

Fairmont Hot Springs Resort in Fairmont, B.C. has launched a Family Learn to Ski Package that combines ski lessons, a snowshoe chocolate fondue, soaking in its natural mineral hot springs and more. The package is suited to a family of four (two adults and two youth or children) that's new to skiing or boarding and wants to enjoy a worry-free learning experience. Visit fairmonthotsprings.com.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sampling a surprising snack

A traveller who makes a point of eating local delicacies may have finally met her match

The **TravelJunkie**

Julia Dimon

metronews.ca/traveljunkie



Andy Concio, owner of a balut factory just outside of Manila, poses with bottles of preserved balut.

Balut is a nutrient-rich snack, an exotic delicacy and a challenge that could unsettle even the most daring of Fear Factor contestants.

It's a dish widely enjoyed in the Philippines and other parts of South East Asia and at first glance, it seems a lot like a hard-boiled egg. The only difference is that when you inspect the contents, you find the yolk is actually an 18-day-old fertilized duck embryo.

Balut has been described as a snack that's as common in Filipino culture as hot dogs are in the U.S. It's most commonly eaten in the early evening with lots of salt and a nice cold beer.

On the streets of Manila, you'll find vendors on every corner selling warm eggs to hungry passersby. Just crack the egg open, peel the shell and add a pinch of sodium. Some eat the snack with a fork, though the usual way to scarf it down is with your bare hands.

Balut is valued as a good calcium hit, a cheap source of protein and a potent aphrodisiac. Countless people also love the taste, but to the uninitiated, the experience can seem not so much gourmet as just plain gross.

The U.S.-based satirical site Cracked.com voted balut one of the "most terrifying foods in the world," and relates that balut is enjoyed in Cambodia, the Philippines and the fifth and seventh levels of hell.

When travelling, I like to keep an open mind and eat as the locals do, even if that means taking culinary challenges to the extreme. So I head to Pateros — a district 20 minutes outside of central Manila that's known as the balut capital of the Philippines — to try the thing for myself.

I visit a locally-owned balut factory where they process about 80,000 eggs a week. Half are sold as balut and the other half as salted eggs.

The owner, Andy Concio, takes me through the factory and explains that thousands of eggs are incubated in wooden chambers and heated at just the right temperature. The process of fertilization is regularly monitored using a device

that looks like a pin-hole camera. He puts an egg under the light of a naked bulb and inspects it carefully.

"The dark shape sloshing around in the egg means the embryo is forming," he says. "If the light doesn't show the veiny liquid, the egg is infertile and cannot be used for balut."

Concio claims to be the first to preserve the product and export it as a non-perishable food item. His main customers are Filipino migrant workers living and working in Dubai,

but his base is growing.

He plans to ship the product to the U.S., making it available to millions of South Asian ex-pats who miss their salty snack.

So what does balut taste like? I pick at an eggshell, then take a shot of the fluid

inside. The liquid is warm and tastes like green tea. But the rest of the contents are not so soothing. They remind me of dry, mealy turkey, the sort that's

been hanging around much too long after Thanksgiving dinner.

I'm happy I tried balut — and plan to keep trying local dishes wherever I go — but I still feel a bit tongue-traumatized. And I may never be able to look at an egg the same way again.

Word Travels

• Catch the second season of Word Travels, a documentary series that follows the real-life adventures of travel writers Julia Dimon and Robin Esrock. It airs Sundays at 6:30 p.m. on OLN, with a repeat at 9:30 p.m.

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing Sundays at 8:30 p.m. on OLN; juliadimon.com.

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Fun Sun Vacations / BC Reg.: 3522-1 / A5429-A / Issue: Jan 21/09 / As to Disney photos, logos, properties: © Disney

Paul McCartney is going to headline a concert to raise money for yogic flying. Film director David Lynch is organizing the benefit in New York on April 4 — which will also star Moby, Sheryl Crow, and Eddie Vedder — and is determined to raise money to teach the technique to school children. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN LISK, DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Milk among GLAAD nominees

AWARDS Best picture Oscar nominee Milk picked up another award nod yesterday as the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation announced nominations for its 20th annual GLAAD Media Awards.

Milk, from Focus Features, the specialty division of Universal Pictures, was included in GLAAD's outstanding film in wide release category. It will compete with Miramax's *Bridhead Revisited*, Columbia's *Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist*, Warner Bros.' *RocknRolla* and the Weinstein Co.'s *Vicky Cristina Barcelona*.

REUTERS

Runway blunder

RAFAEL BRUSILOV
for Metro Canada

Camille Prins went on Project Runway Canada to follow her design dreams, but a frumpy camouflage dress got her sent home in this season's first episode.

On the season premiere last night, designers were tasked with creating a winning dress — using camouflage material — to be displayed in the Canadian War Museum.

Prins, a 28-year-old Toronto native, tried to capture the spirit of a jungle

vixen with her dress but the judges felt it just made the model look dirty and unkempt. One judge said it was actually painful to look at, sealing Prins' fate.

On the show, Prins said her most powerful asset was her positivity and she remains true to form despite being ousted. "The show was actually a really fun, positive experience. I feel like it has already opened a lot of doors."

Prins had only kind words for the other designers and says most of them bonded because of similar goals and personalities.

Previously, two contestants voluntarily withdrew from the competition in dramatic exits due to health issues. Jaclyn Murray, 26, from Winnipeg, Man., suffered an anxiety attack during the first challenge and had to be hospitalized, choosing to withdraw shortly thereafter.

Danio Frangella, 33, from LaSalle, Ont., left the show after developing painful skin ulcers, a side-effect from a bout with cancer.

For Prins, the experience of being on the show was a lot tamer and a lot less intimidating than she had expected.

"I expected it to be a hundred times crazier. Even when I was sleeping I was expecting a camera crew to rush in. But you're too busy to even notice that the cameras are there," she said.

New Heights

Jennifer Lopez is reported to be starring in a Broadway musical. The singer-and-actress is considering a role in the New York theatre production of *In the Heights*. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK



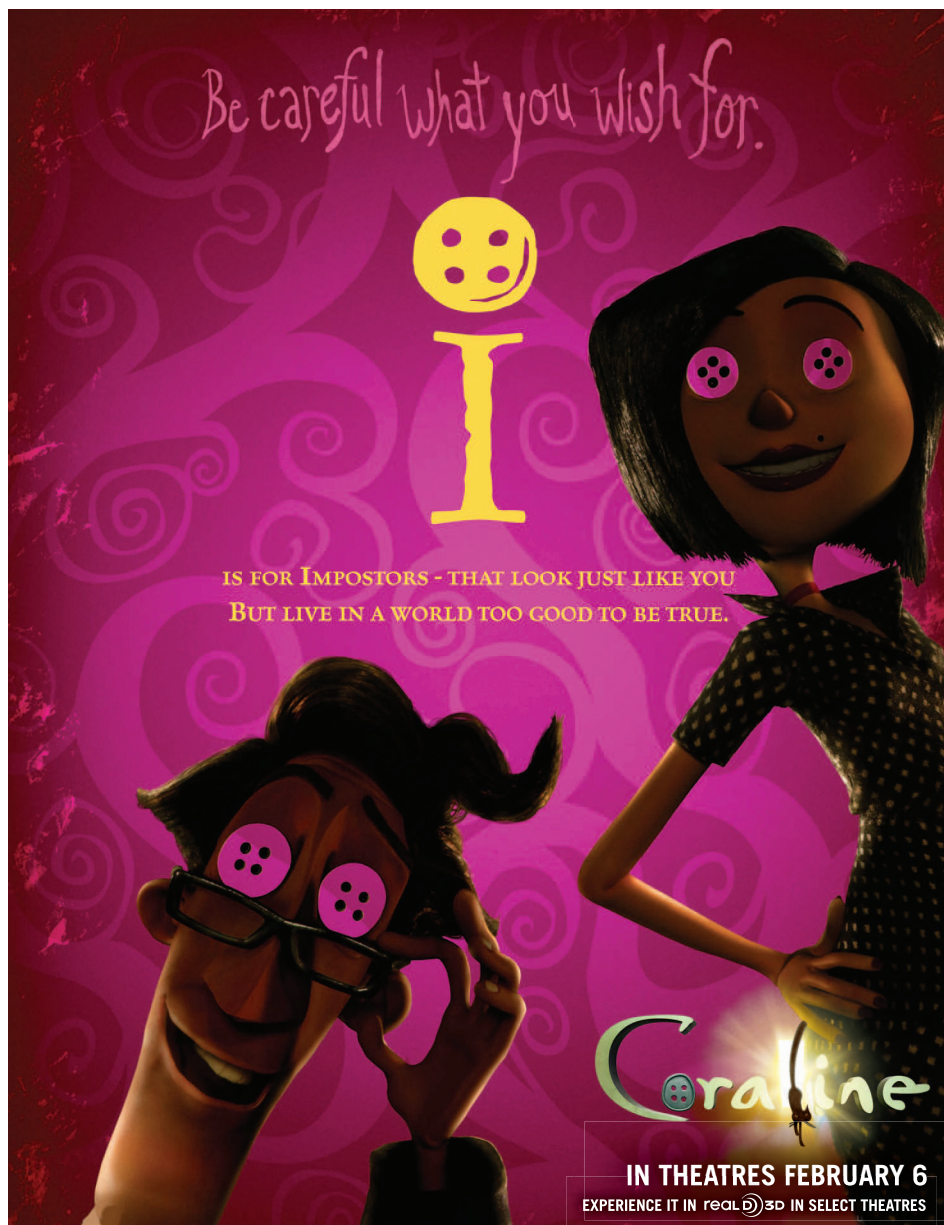
Camille Prins, right, was sent home on Project Runway Canada last night. The Judges didn't like her camouflage dress, left.

Prins says she has wanted to be involved with the show since the first season, so being on the show was a dream come true.

Now that she's off the show Prins will go back to running her Dutch Blonde women's clothing line (dutchblonde.ca) and she hopes to branch out into

menswear and children's apparel soon.

While Prins' experience on Project Runway Canada was a positive one, she says it's hard not to feel disappointed. "I was really looking forward to doing some more of the challenges just to push myself to see what I could do."



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Do it daily.

Dancing shoes

Donny Osmond has let it slip that he is about to step into his sister Marie's shoes — her dancing shoes. Osmond made the remark that he would appear on Dancing with the Stars during a taping of The Bonnie Hunt Show. **PEOPLE.COM**



The next generation of TV viewers: Old people

IntelleVision



TIME TO PANIC: We've passed the midpoint of the traditional TV season, and while the networks can conceal their growing anxiety behind the smoke-screen of economic bad news, the fact is that things haven't gone well, and now is the last moment for fixing it.

As long as the 18-49 demographic is still considered a mix of the football team, the cheerleading squad and the rich kid who lets you drive his BMW, there's no consolation to be had from news that three of the four U.S. networks have lost a considerable chunk of these viewers — a 12-per-cent drop from last year's numbers for ABC and NBC, and 14 per cent loss for Fox, according to a New York Times story.

In brief

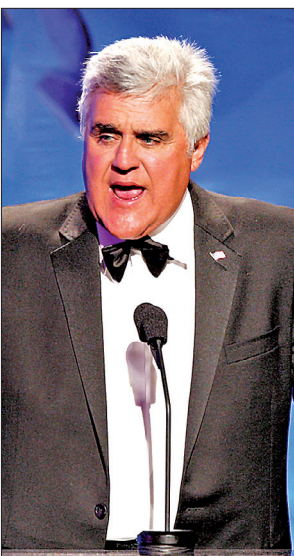
REMAKE The saga of Bonnie and Clyde is headed for another film telling, with Hilary Duff and Kevin Zegers in negotiations to play the infamous 1930s bank robbers.

REDUX ABC is flashing the V sign. The network has ordered a pilot for a reimagining of the 1980s miniseries about an alien invasion. The new V will centre on a female Homeland Security agent.

Only CBS is weathering to demographic exodus, gaining in overall audience and only losing 3 per cent of the 18-49ers, but it has to be remembered that CBS — home of procedurals like Cold Case, Without a Trace, NCIS and the CSI franchise, reality stalwarts Survivor, Big Brother and The Amazing Race and top sitcom Two And A Half Men — is generally considered the house network for the R-gaine generation.

No one who knows the difference between The Shins and The Mars Volta watches CBS to begin with, and if youngsters keep abandoning the networks, we may finally see the emergence of a new consensus among marketing types that young people — probably the most likely to see their disposable income evaporate if the economic downturn continues — aren't the holy grail of audiences anymore.

It may already be hap-



NBC is filling ER's soon-to-bevacant slot with Southland, a cop show set in L.A., at least until Jay Leno can take over next season.

pening. The Times piece notes that network strategies aren't looking that audacious — production teams with a proven track record are behind many of

the new shows, many of which are spin-offs or forays into safe genres like procedurals.

CBS is preparing a spin-off of NCIS, NBC has put Greg Daniels and Michael Schur of The Office in charge of Amy Poehler's new sitcom, and is filling ER's soon-to-bevacant slot with Southland, a cop show set in L.A., at least until Jay Leno can take over the space next season.

A few of you might already have noticed that ads for adult incontinence pads and cures for male urinary irregularities have migrated from cable and late night to prime time. Look for more of the same, until the day when some network realizes that enough of their viewers have memory issues for them to just run the same episode of CSI every night.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

ABC announces comedic lineup

NETWORKS ABC has announced the creation of a Thursday night comedy block and has scheduled airtimes for two of its mid-season comedies.

Starting March 26, the network will air single-mom comedy In the Motherhood on Thursdays at 8 p.m. EST and move the Christina Applegate-starring sitcom Samantha Who? from Mondays to Thursdays at 8:30 p.m.

The usual occupant of that hour, Ugly Betty, will take a rare hiatus, then will return to the slot later

in the season. ABC also has scheduled the office sitcom Better Off Ted, which will air Wednesdays at 8:30 p.m. starting March 18, paired in the hour with Scrubs.

The Thursday move puts ABC's comedy block head-to-head with NBC's My Name Is Earl and Kath & Kim, which have slipped in the ratings.



Ugly Betty

REUTERS

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critics' corner

Too Posh to Wash

Jeans pockets should hold handkerchiefs, not substitute for them. Tell that to the 23-year-old subject of this new episode. Using her jeans as tissues is the least of her hygiene problems; she also still has the glue on her teeth from the braces she ripped off more than a year ago — which is also the last time she wore a clean bra. Kim Woodburn and Aggie MacKenzie swoop in with microbiologist Derren Ready to give this young woman a wake-up call. 10:30 PM on W



CSI: NY

Cliffhanger? More like a bridge hanger. Last season ended with a bank robber forcing Mac (Gary Sinise) at gunpoint to drive onto a bridge. In an encore of this season's premiere, Mac wakes up in the car, which is now under water. And while we may remember how he got there, he doesn't. Melina Kanakaredes, Carmine Giovinazzo and Hill Harper also star in "Veritas." 11 PM on KREM

GlobalStyle



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	C	B	S	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	2	CFRN	239 318	etalk	Hollywood	CSI: NY "Veritas" (HDTV)	American Idol (HDTV) (N)	Criminal Minds "Lo-Fi"	News (N)			
	3	KHQ	- 370	News (N)	Be-Millionaire	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel-Fortune	Knight Rider (HDTV)	Law & Order: SVU			Law & Order
	4	CBXT	- 307	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	The Week the Women Went	CBC News: the fifth estate	CBC News: The National	The Hour			
	6	KREM	- 372	News (N)	Hollywood	The Doctors (N)	Evening News	Old Christine	Criminal Minds "Lo-Fi"			CSI: NY
	7	CKEM	241 347	Law & Order: SVU		13: Fear Is Real (N)	Hates Chris	Friends	I Love Money			Your City
	8	CITV	240 339	ET Canada	Entertainment	Life on Mars (HDTV) (N)	House "97 Seconds"		Lie to Me (HDTV) (N)			News Hour
	11	OMNI	-	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News	News	The Simpsons	King			Metropia
	12	CBXFT	119 705	Virginie (SC)	L'Épicerie	Le Match des étoiles (SC)	Les Invincibles (SC)		Le Téléjournal et Les Nou			TJ Alberta
	13	KXLY	- 371	4 News at 6	4 News at 6:30	Entertainment	The Insider (N)	Lost "The Lie"	Lost "Jughead" (N)			Life on Mars
	16	KAYU	- 373	The Simpsons	Raymond	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	American Idol (HDTV) (N)	Lie to Me (HDTV) (N)			News (N)
news	19	CHTV	-	The Insider (N)	E! News	Fashion Police: SAG Awards	Knight Rider (HDTV) (N)	Party Monsters: Cabo (N)	News (N)			Black Coffee
	22	KSPS	- 374	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	Pioneers of Television		Make 'em Laugh: The Funny Business of America (N)					
	24	WTVS	- 364	Make 'em Laugh: Funny	Make 'em Laugh: The Funny Business of America				Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N)		
	15	CBCN	502	-	CBC News: The National	Jelly Fish Invasion (N)	CBC News: The National	CBC News: The National	Jelly Fish			
	21	TWN	505 398	(5) EarthWatch One	EarthWatch One		EarthWatch Two					
	27	CNN	500 500	Larry King Live	Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)			Larry King Live	Cooper 360			
	54	CTVN	501 391	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet		News
	70	BNN	504 508	Squeeze Play	Market Call		Headline	Market Call	Commodities	Business News		Squeeze Play
	20	TSN	400 400	NHL Hockey Buffalo Sabres at Calgary Flames.	NHL Hockey Nashville Predators at Vancouver Canucks. (HDTV) (Live)							SportsCentre
	43	SPEED	417 406	Pinks (HDTV)	Pinks Outtakes	Wrecked	Wrecked	NASCAR Pre.	Pass Time	Am. Thunder	Am. Thunder	Pinks (HDTV)
sports	94	SCORE	410 403	Women's University Basketball	Score Update		Hardcore Hockey Talk	Final Score	Final Score	Final Score		Final Score
	9	EDACC	267 351	Truth, Duty, Valour	Law & Order (HDTV) (N)		Lost "The Lie"		Lost "Jughead" (N)			Law & Order
	14	YTV	552 543	Drake & Josh	iCarly	Adrenaline Proj	Prank Patrol	Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	Adrenaline	Prank Patrol	Falcon Beach
	17	TREE	553 546	Little Bear	Miss Spider	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie Olie	Max & Ruby	Babar	Backyardigans	Dora-Explorer	Go, Diego, Go!
	42	TOON	555 545	Ben 10	Johnny Test	Total Spies	Total Drama	6TEEN	6TEEN	Misadventures	Futurama	The Critic
	45	FAM	557 541	Zoe 101	Life Derek	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School
	-	TVA	121 714	TVA 18 heures	Le Cercle (SC)	Poule-oeufs or	Sketch Show	Destinées "Poker Face" (SC)		Domages et intérêts		TVA 22 heures
	18	CMT	575 583	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Three Chords	Tara Diaries	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba
	25	A&E	615 520	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter
	26	MMM	571 581	Story Of Spice Girls.	All-Time Top 10		Revival	Back In	Party of Five "Fam-i-ly"			All-Time 10
family	29	FOOD	603 561	Iron Chef America	Top Chef Super Bowl cook-off. (N)		Dinner Imposs.	Challenge		Iron Chef Am.		
	31	SHOW	617 522	Wife Swap	The Outer Limits		About a Girl	About a Girl	The Guard "Waheguru"			Big Love
	32	DISC	520 505	Deadliest Catch	Mayday "Phantom Strike"		Daily Planet		MythBusters			Dirty Jobs
	33	SLICE	601 562	Real Housewives of OC	Filthy Rich: Cattle Drive		ET Canada	Matchmaker	Real Housewives of OC			Trading Sp
	34	W	602 567	Style by Jury	Style by Jury	Will & Grace	Friends	Grocery Bag	Grocery Bag	How Clean	Too Posh	Maxed Out (N)
	35	TLC	521 560	Solved "The Watch Man"	Extreme Forensics		Personal Justice (HDTV)		Solved "The Watch Man"			Ext. Forensics
	36	BRAVO	620 523	Wingfield	Death at-Opera	Broadway	Law & Order		Without a Trace			Rasputin
	38	SPIKE	628 584	UFC Unleashed (HDTV)	UFC Primetime	UFC Primetime	UFC Unleashed		CSI: NY (HDTV)			CSI: NY
	40	HIST	522 506	Gladiator Graveyard	NCIS		Lost Inventions		Cities of the Underworld			Dig for Truth
	41	COM	626 547	Laughs	Comedy Now	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		The Simpsons	South Park		Jon Dore Show
cable variety	43	SPACE	627 528	Star Trek: Voyager	Rabbit Fall	Rabbit Fall	Stargate SG-1		Star Trek: Next Gener.			Trek: Voyager
	44	WPCH	294 650	(6) Signs (2002)	Steve Harvey	Seinfeld	Family Guy	Family Guy	Signs *** (2002, Suspense)			
	46	OLN	411 457	Mantracker	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman		Mantracker			Bounty Hunter
	48	TROP	619 525	What Happen?	What Happen?	Reality	Ad Persuasion	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Raymond		Family Guy
	50	STAR	621 527	Blush: Make-Up Artist	The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		TMZ	etalk	The View (HDTV)			Fashionista
	52	HGTV	600 564	Property Virgin	Unsellable	Hid Potential	Really Big Flip	Holmes on Homes	Property Virgin	Unsellable		Mansions
	65	TLN	700 800	(6) Un Cicle In Famiglia 2	Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez	George Lopez	The Sopranos "Boca" (SS)			David Rocco
	92	APTN	269 350	APTN National News: Contact	Extreme Beats		Canadian Geographic		Miywayawin	Guides		Wings-Canada
	93	VISION	261 394	Darling Buds of May	Life & Times		Poltergeist: The Legacy		The Cheap Detective (1978, Comedy)			
	100	MTV	581 566	The Real World	The Real World (N)		MTV Live	After	Next	Parent Control		Real World
cable variety	101	MM	570 580	Degrassi: TNG	Degrassi: TNG	Video on Trial	Video on Trial	PunchMuch	America's Best Dance Crew			disBand
	102	CPAC	512 396	(6:30) Headline Politics			Revue	Question Period	Prime-Politics	Headline Politics		
	103	VIVA	526 507	Medium "Coming Soon"	Mediums	Psychic Detect	Mediums	Encounters	Judging Amy			Medium
	106	RDI	126 730	Le Téléjournal (SC)	RDI en direct		Le Téléjournal (SC)		Le Journal RDI	Le National		Le Téléjournal

Spice Girl Geri Halliwell is engaged after a whirlwind romance, People magazine has confirmed. The redheaded Ginger Spice, 36, is set to wed Italian yacht-company owner Fabrizio Politi, 34. **PEOPLE.COM**

Celebrity Buzz

Amy to visit prison in bid to keep hubby

MARRIAGE Amy Winehouse is set to visit her husband in prison in a bid to stop him from filing for divorce, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The Rehab singer — who has been romantically linked with 21-year-old actor Josh Bowman and a fitness instructor named Andrew while holidaying in St. Lucia — has applied to see Blake Fielder-Civil and is set to return to the U.K. any day to save their marriage.

A friend of the 25-year-old star said that, "Since he began divorce proceedings Amy has decided she wants to try and work things out."

"She has applied to visit

him in jail in Britain and if he accepts she will fly back. We will see what his priority is. Amy or her money."

Blake — who is serving a 27-month sentence for perverting the course of justice and grievous bodily harm — is reportedly planning to ask for half of Winehouse's fortune in a divorce settlement.

Despite being photographed frolicking with Josh on her holiday and reports they frequently romped, Winehouse has insisted she "still loves" Blake.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Airbrushed teeth in Sienna photo

VANITY Airbrushing is nothing new in the fashion industry, but have you heard of someone's teeth needing to be airbrushed?

Femalefirst.co.uk is reporting that was the case for Sienna Miller.

The website says a new documentary reveals that when the actress was shot for the cover of American Vogue in 2007 the magazine's editor Anna Wintour voiced her

concerns over Sienna's oral health.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Affleck admits he wasn't always lucky in love

DATING Ben Affleck was "never very good" at dating, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The 36-year-old actor — who had relationships with Gwyneth Paltrow and Jennifer Lopez before marrying Jennifer Garner — admits starring in new romantic comedy He's Just Not That Into You was a challenge because he hasn't always been lucky in love.

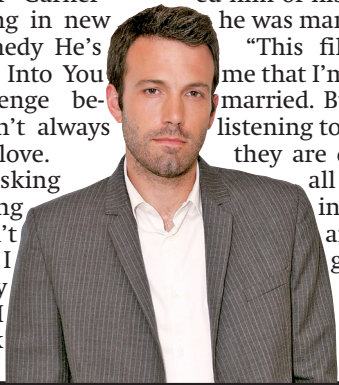
"You're asking me for dating advice? I can't give any — I was never very good at it, I don't think

anyone should follow my advice," he said.

Ben added he enjoyed making the film — which tells the stories of several young men and women in different stages of relationships — because it reminded him of his life before he was married.

"This film showed me that I'm happy I'm married. But I do like listening to boys when they are dating, and all the actors in the movie are very good."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



'Adopt me': Clooney

PEOPLE George Clooney has made an offer few can refuse: He has placed himself up for adoption, people.com reports.

"I always wanted to be adopted, but I couldn't find anyone," said the star, speaking at a Newseum event in Washington, D.C., with his father, former Ohio news anchor Nick Clooney, and veteran journalist Bill Small on either side of him.

"Will you adopt me?" George said to Small. "I'm very wealthy. I'll take care of

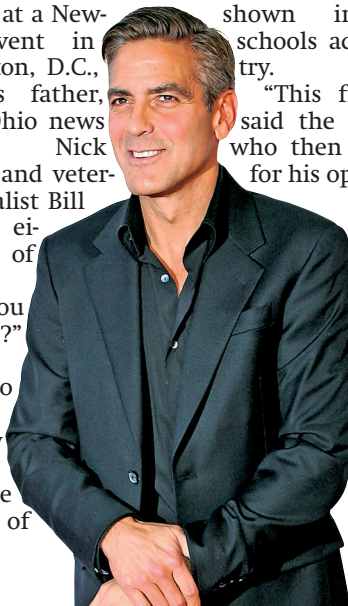
you."

Talk of adoption started after Nick Clooney's observation that his son's 2005 film, Good Night, and Good Luck, about iconic CBS newsman Edward R. Murrow, is now being shown in journalism schools across the country.

"This film has legs," said the elder Clooney, who then asked his son for his opinion.

"I don't care for that," said the jocular George — prompting Nick to respond: "I never cared for this kid — his sister's great."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Rourke's Wrestler injuries

PEOPLE Mickey Rourke had to be helped up stairs by his girlfriend after suffering so many injuries from The Wrestler, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The 56-year-old actor — who recently won a Golden Globe Award for his role as Randy (The Ram) Robinson in the movie — wasn't prepared for the effects the brutal fighting scenes would have on his body.

"I had to try harder to get up in the

morning. And because of my extra bulk, a football knee from high school acted up again. Two hundred years later! And my woman had to get behind me and push me up the stairs. I was pathetic looking," he said.

"So my knees wouldn't hold up, because of all the extra weight and the exercise. And all the injuries you get from being thrown down, you know?"

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Angie and Brad to rent classy \$60 million US estate

COUPLE What could make Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt's upcoming rental of a \$60 million US estate in the Gold Coast area of New York's Long Island even more fabulous? How about throwing in the use of the property owner's \$90 million luxury yacht?

Star Magazine is reporting the Hollywood couple — and their six children — will be moving into the Sassafras estate in the exclusive waterfront town of Lloyd Neck, while Angelina begins area filming for the spy thriller Salt in March.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Lohan loses a lot of weight lately

PEOPLE Lindsay Lohan's shrinking frame has had folks worried lately, as the erratic actress has lost a noticeable amount of weight. But her publicist is working hard to explain all that. "Lindsay is aware that she's lost some weight due to stress," Lohan's rep tells Hollyscoop.

"But we recently did a photo shoot and she ate two full meals."

No word on what's causing all this stress, but her rocky relationship with Samantha Ronson can't be helping.

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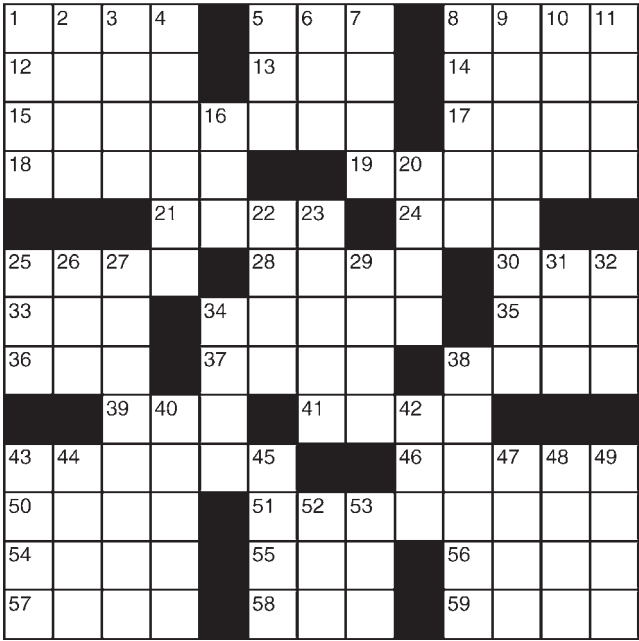
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“My favourite part is reporting the weather. It fascinates me, and as we know around here, it’s always changing, keeping forecasters on their toes.”
WEEKDAYS AT 6 AM



Take Five



Crossword across

- 1 Light-years away
- 5 Weep loudly
- 8 Vicinity
- 12 Theatre box
- 13 Crony
- 14 Rent
- 15 Lamb and eggplant recipe
- 17 Libertine’s feeling
- 18 — au poivre
- 19 Explosions
- 21 Pinocchio, notably
- 24 Braying beast
- 25 George Herman Ruth
- 28 Campus hangout
- 30 Recede
- 33 Mess up
- 34 Fastidious
- 35 Have a bug
- 36 Ostrich’s kin
- 37 Right on the map?
- 38 Zealots’ group
- 39 “Casablanca” pianist
- 41 Apiece
- 43 Rigatoni and rotini
- 46 5-Down features
- 50 Double Stuf cookie
- 51 Subject of Frederick I
- 54 Pottery oven
- 55 “— Town”
- 56 Notions holder
- 57 Relaxation
- 58 X rating?
- 59 Nitwit

Crossword down

- 1 Charitable gifts
- 2 Yard portion
- 3 Chills and fever
- 4 Auction, essentially
- 5 Masseur’s workplace, maybe
- 6 Furniture wood
- 7 Spill the beans
- 8 Holdup man?
- 9 Philosopher Jean-Jacques
- 10 Formerly, formerly
- 11 Picnic invaders
- 16 Schuss
- 20 Gentlewoman
- 22 Blue hue
- 23 Charlotte — (dessert)
- 25 Spelling contest
- 26 Branch
- 27 NATO headquarters site
- 29 “The Thin Man” dog
- 31 Puppeteer Baird
- 32 Sandwich shop order
- 34 Damage assessment org.
- 38 Pursued
- 40 Expiate (for)
- 42 Couric’s network
- 43 Prod
- 44 Met melody
- 45 Location
- 47 One of the Jackson 5
- 48 Truckload
- 49 Fit of peevishness
- 52 Wish otherwise
- 53 Coffee dispenser

PREVIOUS DAY’S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



1	8	4	5	9	7	3	6	2
3	2	9	8	4	6	5	1	7
7	5	6	3	2	1	4	9	8
5	4	3	2	1	8	9	7	6
2	9	1	6	7	4	8	3	5
6	7	8	9	3	5	1	2	4
4	1	5	7	6	3	2	8	9
9	3	7	4	8	2	6	5	1
8	6	2	1	5	9	7	4	3

Find today’s answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:	17-21 min	Smart
Under 13 min	Genius	
13-17 min	Scholar	
	21-25 min	Not bad
	25+ min	Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day



Filet Mignon Salad

INGREDIENTS:
4 red peppers
10 oz (300 g) filet mignon
1/2 tsp (2 mL) pepper
2 garlic cloves
1 lb (500 g) green beans, trimmed
4 tbsp (60 mL) balsamic vinegar
2 tsp (10 mL) extra virgin olive oil
2 tbsp (25 mL) finely chopped shallot
1/4 lb (125 g) mixed salad greens
6 tomatoes, cut into 1/4-in (0.5-cm) wedges

METHOD:
1. Preheat broiler. Place red peppers in broiler pan. Cook until skins are blistered and blackened, turning frequently. Place in plastic bag, seal tightly and let steam 10 minutes. Peel away blackened skins from peppers, seed and cut into chunks.
2. Meanwhile, lay filet flat on cutting board and slit lengthwise three-quarters of the way through. Open

up like a book and press flat. Sprinkle with 1/4 tsp (1 mL) pepper. Cut 1 garlic clove in half and rub cut sides all over beef. Barbecue or broil beef until done to taste, about 3 minutes per side for medium. Thinly slice beef.
3. Cook beans in boiling water until crisp-tender, about 5 minutes. Drain and rinse immediately with cold water.
4. Crush remaining garlic clove. Whisk vinegar, oil, garlic, shallot and remaining pepper in small bowl. Divide mixed salad greens among 4 plates and arrange meat, pepper, beans and tomatoes on top. Drizzle with dressing and serve.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month’s Reader’s Digest, on newsstands now!



Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Fate takes a hand and delayed money arrives. A man wants to run away due to lost trust. You’d be happier somewhere else.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Your patience is rewarded by a forceful person. A traveller will convince you that he’s right. Friendly actions will become an issue.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Try not to be upset by guilty feelings. Your good deeds are repaid twice over. Ask questions in order to lower your stress level.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
A timid person is playing a waiting game. Try to have reasonable expectations of distant friends. Behave reasonably to obtain more freedom.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Give yourself a fresh start. Hurt feelings will erupt temporarily. If someone sees you as a hero, try to live up to it.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
An incredible interruption comes up after lunch. An old man is excited about a mystery romance. You’ll find a tempting bargain.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
A meeting has nothing to do with you. Somebody with a deceptive smile should be avoided. You can tell that something has failed.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Doors will open after an emotional predicament. Some people are in a foul mood. A notorious man requests your help, but you’ll refuse.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
It’ll be great if you can take a different approach. Bravado is important when you’re avoiding a call. Stay away from scandalous actions all day.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Hammer home your point with a very light touch. You’ll enjoy someone’s amusing discussion. A generous man will be your lucky charm.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
A friend may be loyal but is also indiscreet. A habitual favour-beggar regrets a previous request. A second chance can come at night.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Coffee shop talk leads to deception in a company. A polite person is making amends. An unpleasant creature can be dealt with by a friend.

WORDY GURDY® BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

1. Eisenhower’s Dutch embankments (1)
2. Chimney dirt on a leg end (1)
3. Identical moniker (1)
4. Low-in-fat king’s wife (1)
5. Picasso’s countrymen disappear (2)
6. At-bat player’s shaky nerves (2)
7. Vote-seeking game plan bubbly (2)

ANSWERS: 1. EISENHOWER 2. FOOT SOOT 3. SAME NAME 4. LEAN QUEEN 5. SPANISH VANISH 6. HITTERS JITTERS 7. CAMPAIGN CHAMPAGNE

Every answer is a rhyming pair of words (like FAT CAT and DOUBLE TROUBLE), and they will fit in the letter squares. The number after the definition tells you how many syllables in each word.

This day in history

JAN 28, 1547: Henry VIII dies. His nine year old son, Edward VI becomes King, and the first Protestant ruler of England.
JAN 28, 1855: The first locomotive runs from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean on the Panama Railway.
JAN 28, 1909: United States troops leave Cuba with the exception of Guantanamo Bay Naval Base after being there since the Spanish-American War.
JAN 28, 1958: The Lego company patented their design of Lego bricks, still compatible with bricks produced today.
JAN 28, 1986: Space Shuttle Challenger breaks apart after liftoff killing all seven astronauts onboard.

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